

MILDENHALL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health.

For the Year 1938.

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

MILDENHALL

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

R E P O R T
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year
1938.

ROBERT H. CLAYTON M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of
Mildenhall, in the County of West Suffolk, for the
year ending 31st December, 1938.

Public Health Offices,

Westgate House,

Westgate Street,

Bury St. Edmund's.

June, 1939.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Mildenhall.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lord & Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for
your favourable consideration my third Annual Report as
Medical Officer of Health being for the year ended 31st
December, 1938.

The "September Crisis" will
always serve to make 1938 a memorable year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lord and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBT. H. CLAYTON.

Medical Officer of Health.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29799922>

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health.

ROBERT HOGG CLAYTON M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

also Medical Officer of Health, Newmarket Urban,
Thedwastre, Thingoe and Cosford
Rural Districts and
Senior Assistant County Medical Officer of Health
West Suffolk.

Sanitary Inspector.

H.W. Trotter, Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute,
Meat and Other Foods Certificate, Royal Sanitary
Institute, also Building Surveyor and Petroleum
and Explosives Officer.

H.G. York - Student Clerk.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS of the AREA.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	86,759 acres
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population, mid - 1938	12,440
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Book	3,500
Rateable Value	£43,405
Sum represented by a penny rate	£174

Mildenhall, an entirely rural district, is situated in the north-west of the County of West Suffolk. The north-eastern portion of the area is in the ownership of the Forestry Commission who are engaged in the afforestation of the heath land which predominates in this part. The western portion of the area is mainly fen land, intensely cultivated, the principle products being Sugar Beet, Potatoes, Fruit and Flowers. The southern portion is agricultural and contains several racing stud farms. The Royal Air Force Aerodrome at Beck Row, Mildenhall is within the area of the Rural District.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

	Total	M	F	
<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	(Legitimate 170 Illegitimate 5	87 1	83 4	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.1
<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>	(Legitimate 7 Illegitimate -	3 -	4 -)	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 38.5
<u>DEATHS.</u>		134	61	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population:-
				<u>CRUDE</u> 10.8
				<u>CORRECTED</u> 8.8

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):-

Rate per 1,000 total
(live and still births)

No 29. Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
No 30 Other Puerperal Causes	One	5.5

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	34.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	35.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

DEATHS FROM CANCER. (All ages)	18
--------------------------------	----

<u>MEASLES.</u>	"	"	Nil
-----------------	---	---	-----

<u>WHOOPING COUGH.</u>	"	"	Nil
------------------------	---	---	-----

<u>DIARRHOEA</u> (under 2 years of age)	Nil.
---	------

The Death Rates above are estimated on the Registrar General's figures which are identical with those prepared locally save that locally one less male death was recorded under "Other Defined Diseases" and one less female death under "Ill Defined or Unknown".

Our population increased by 70 during the year, following an increase of 80 in 1937. Births were 53 less and deaths 31 less than in 1937. Comparison with the 1937 figures for each age group given at the foot on the Causes of Deaths table reveals the satisfactory fact that it was owing to fewer deaths in the lower age groups that the diminution in the total number of deaths occurred.

The Birth Rate 14.1 is lower than in 1937 (18.4) or 1936 (15.0) and below that of England and Wales (15.1). This low Birth Rate is indicative of the higher average age of our population than that of the country as a whole, ^a point further indicated by the fact that our Corrected Death Rate (8.8) is only 0.82 of the Crude Death Rate (10.8).

The Death Rate of England and Wales is 11.6 so our Corrected Death Rate (8.8) which is lower than the figures recorded in 1937 (10.9) or 1936 (11.6) may be taken to indicate that 1938 was a very satisfactory year in this District.

The Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age in our District (34.3) compares very favourably with that for England and Wales (53) and is less than the figures recorded in 1937 (61.4) and 1936 (43.5).

Of the six deaths of infants under 1 year three were of premature babies who died on the day of birth, two were caused by intracranial haemorrhage and occurred on the second and fifth days, whilst the remaining death was caused by Pneumonia at ten months.

Improvement in this age group therefore is not a matter of Infant Welfare Work but rather to be effected by Ante-natal care. The Women's Institutes to many of whom we have been privileged to lecture, have done and are doing very valuable service in bringing the importance of ante-natal care to the notice of expectant mothers.

There were 18 deaths from Cancer, nine male (of which seven were Cancer of the digestive tract, one of lung and one bladder) and nine female (five Cancer of the reproductive organs, two digestive tract, one lung and one, a mediastinal sarcoma).

CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Deaths at the Sub-joined
ages of "Residents"
whether occurring in
or beyond District.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.
M A L E S.

Deaths at the Sub-joined
ages of MALE RESIDENTS
whether occurring in or
beyond District

CAUSES OF DEATHS.
F E M A L E S.

Deaths at the Sub-joined
ages of FEMALE RESIDENTS
whether occurring in or
beyond District

SECTION F.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(ii)

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

As in previous years use has been made of the East Suffolk County Laboratory, Ipswich, for bacteriological examinations. The bacteriologist is H.M. Cade, Esq., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Newmarket Rural District, to whose hospital our infectious cases are admitted, provide an ambulance for Infectious Disease cases which is stationed at their Infectious Diseases Hospital.

A Red Cross Ambulance at Newmarket and two at Bury St. Edmunds were available throughout the year to persons in our area. In the latter part of the year the Red Cross Society obtained an ambulance which is stationed with their Brandon Association. These ambulances have been adequate for the calls made upon them in 1938.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

This work is carried out by Voluntary Nursing Associations. Their Nurses also undertake Midwifery, Health Visiting and Public Assistance Work on behalf of the County Council which makes Grants to their Associations. Every parish in the Mildenhall District has nursing facilities available for its inhabitants, the nurses reside in the parishes of Brandon, Elvedon, Icklingham, Lakenheath Mildenhall and Moulton.

(d) CLINICS.

The West Suffolk County Council held monthly Infant Welfare and School Children Clinics at Brandon and Lakenheath.

During the year a fortnightly Infant Welfare Clinic was commenced at Mildenhall. The only other Clinic in our area is that maintained by the Alice Dix Charity who provide a dispensary in the Parish of Icklingham.

(e) HOSPITALS.

The West Suffolk General Hospital at Bury St. Edmund's serves our population.

As in previous years our Infectious Disease Cases have been treated at the Newmarket Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital.

The County Council is actively engaged in preparing for their new Isolation Hospital, which will serve the whole of West Suffolk with the exception of the Newmarket Urban District. There are many advantages to be gained by having one Isolation Hospital to serve the County in peace time and certainly if hostilities should occur a Central Isolation Hospital would greatly assist administration.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(i) WATER.

Duplicate bores have been sunk at Eriswell and Moulton to provide a piped supply of water to ten Parishes following loan sanction for our Water Schemes. Piped supplies already exist at Brandon, (the Council's Public Supply serving practically the whole Parish) and at Elvedon, Higham and Santon Downham, (these latter being small privately owned supplies).

The Council are very mindful of their responsibility to safeguard public water supplies and to ensure that all water supplied by them is pure and wholesome. To this end it is their policy to have all Public Supplies bacteriologically and chemically examined frequently.

A further protection is available in that the Medical Officer is instructed to take additional samples when he has reason to believe that such additional sampling is urgently required. On only one sample was an adverse report received and this was followed by the cleansing of the well concerned.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

During the year 8 houses have been provided with cesspool drainage as the result of informal action. Until such time as Exchequer Aid is available the introduction of sewerage schemes into our larger villages, where they would be a great convenience, a Public Health benefit and a removal of anxiety from this Reception Area, is beyond the financial resources of the District.

(2) RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Ouse and Cam Fishing Board, (Clerk - G.H. Lewis, Esq., F.S.A.A., 7, Downing Street, Cambridge) with their Water Bailiffs, and members of the Lark Angling Preservation Society Board, (General Secretary - A. Gregory, Esq., Mildenhall Road, Barton Mills) constantly survey the River Lark.

During the year the Board have taken samples from the river and watched carefully the effects of the effluent from the Bury St. Edmund's Beet Sugar Factory and of the outfall from the Bury St. Edmund's Sewage Disposal Works at West Stow.

The Lark Angling Society in conjunction with the Ouse and Cam Fishing Board restocked the River Lark with Trout and Coarse Fish.

The present state of the river is very satisfactory it having been dredged by the Great Ouse Catchment Board during the year.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

During 1938 public scavenging schemes have been continued in the Parishes of Brandon, Lakenheath and part of Mildenhall, where for the most part the type of closet has been converted to pail system.

To pail
closets.

To water
closets.

Number of closets on the conservancy system converted throughout the district during the year	16	10
Number of new and additional pail closets called for and provided throughout the district during the year		6
Number of pail closets emptied weekly by Public Scavengers:-		
Mildenhall (part of)	184	
Lakenheath	224	
Brandon	469	

The general standard of closet accommodation throughout the area is unsatisfactory. In some Parishes as many as 50% are of the privy vault type. In view of the fact that this District is scheduled as a Reception Area it appears highly desirable that improvement in this connection be hastened.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Complete schemes embodying the collection of house refuse and the contents of closet pails are in operation in the Parishes of Brandon, and the main parts of the Parishes of Lakenheath and Mildenhall. There was, as in previous years a monthly collection of refuse in the Parish of Higham and a similar monthly collection in the Parish of Moulton was commenced during the year.

Before renewing existing contracts the Council again considered a Regional Scheme for Refuse and Night Soil Collection and have decided to further consider this scheme when the renewal of contracts is again before them.

Considerable improvement in the management of the Mildenhall Refuse Pit has been effected. There are still unfortunately in the District several Parish Pits where indiscriminate dumping takes place. The Council are endeavouring to remedy this with the co-operation of the various Parish Councils.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

As in previous years, Mr. Trotter, who throughout the year has rendered me every assistance, has supplied the following Tabular Statement:-

(a) Number of Inspections.

Houses	Public Health &	730
	Housing Act)	
Houses	under Building Byelaws	265
Council House	Management	496
Tents, Vans	& Sheds	32
Factories		19
Shops		10
Schools		18
Cowsheds and	Dairies	81
Slaughterhouses	and Butcher's Premises	358
Casual Slaughters		39
Food Vans		3
Samples (Water 9, Milk 4.)		13
Dumps and Tips		25
After Infectious Diseases		6
Owners Interviewed		557
Nuisances investigated		49
Miscellaneous		102
		<u>2803</u>

(b) Number of Notices served during the year = 127
(Statutory 22, Others 106.)

(c) Notices complied with
(Statutory 9, Others 127.) = 136

These notices effected:-

Housing:- General Repairs	28
Drainage	8
Additional Closets	6
Ashbins provided	14
Cowsheds:- Structural Repairs	9
Cleansing	22
Water provided	1
Nuisances:- Abated	22
Vault Closets:- Converted	26

Factory Act, 1937.

The following table indicates the number of inspections made under the above Act:-

	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with Mechanical Power	7	1	Nil
" without Mechanical Power	12	1	Nil
Other Premises	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	19	2	Nil

The 2 defects found (Want of Cleanliness, Defective Sanitary Accommodation) were both remedied.

A Conference was arranged with the Sanitary Inspectors in my five Districts and Miss D. McWilliam, H.M. Inspector of Factories, at which was discussed the requirements of the Factory Act, 1937. We received very detailed information from H.M. Inspector at this Conference and have been greatly assisted by Miss McWilliam, who, throughout the year, maintained close co-operation.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

The requirements of the Shops' Act, 1934, regarding temperature, ventilation and sanitary conveniences have been brought to the notice of shop owners in the District and ten inspections made.

(v) CAMPING SITES.

The number of sites used for camping purposes during 1938 was 13. Licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of 5 sites. The estimated maximum number of campers in 1938 was 27.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

All premises in the area have been conducted during the year without smoke nuisance.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned Swimming Baths open to the public within the area.

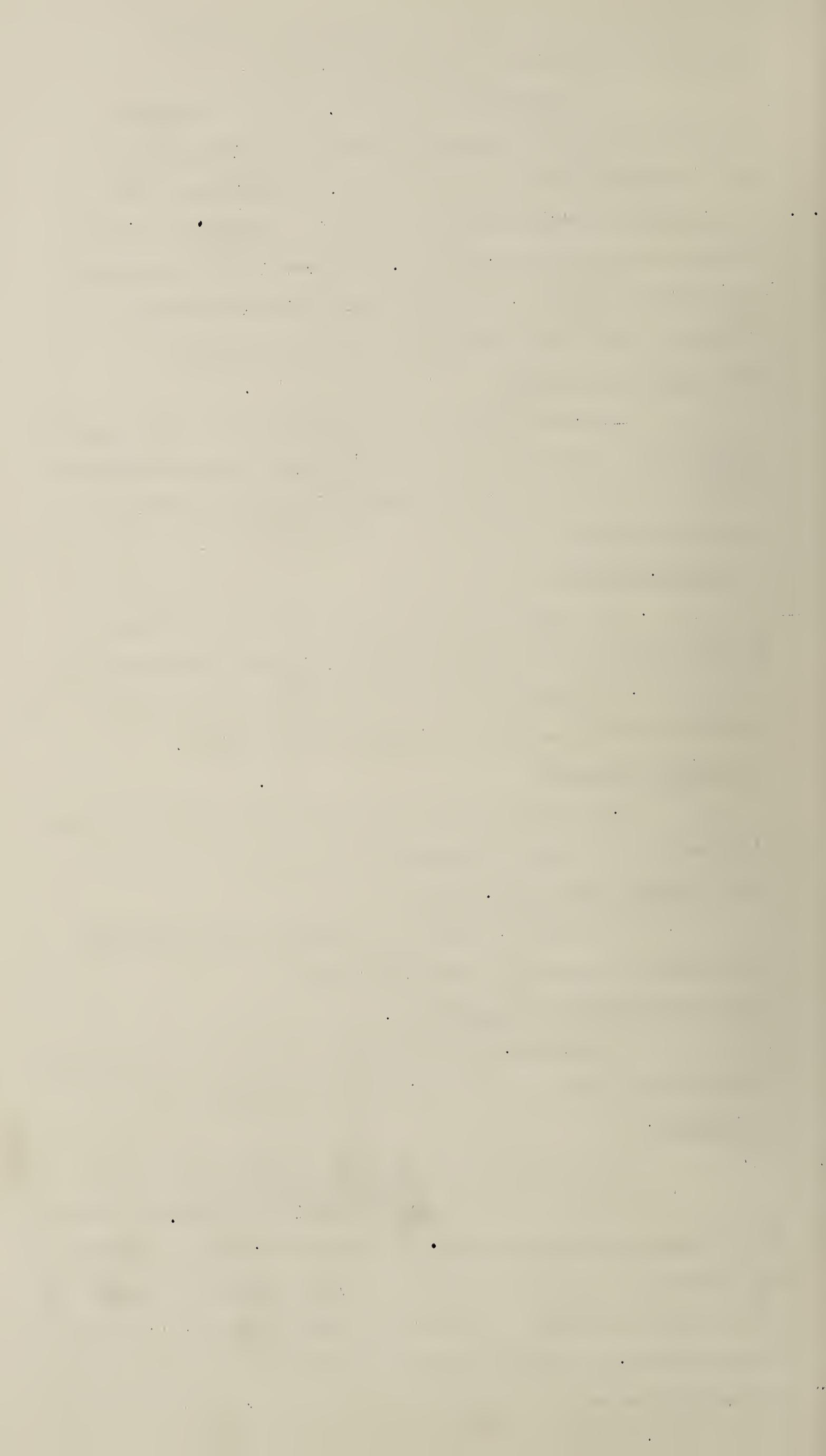
(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No complaints of Bed Bugs in Council or other Houses have been received.

4. SCHOOLS.

18 visits have been made to schools in the area.

In view of the proposed scheme to concentrate schools into larger centralised buildings the County Education Authority are naturally reluctant to incur a large expense on Schools likely shortly to be disused. They have, however, promptly attended to minor and urgent matters brought to the notice of their officials throughout the year.



SECTION D.H O U S I N G.

1. (1)(a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	459
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	624
(2)(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	93
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	106
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	85
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding Sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	75
2. <u>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice.</u>	
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	48
3. <u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</u>	
(a) <u>Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	9
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice:-	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b) <u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	13
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners	10
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) <u>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	36
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	12

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a)(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 53 |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein | 53 |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein | 348 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | 2 |
| (c)(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 7 |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases | 46 |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority having taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | Nil |
| (e) Progress to relieve overcrowding or to rehouse those living in unfit houses was delayed during 1938 as no houses were built by the Council throughout the year. This was due to the delay caused by the Ministry of Health being unable to approve the plans suggested. When satisfactory alterations were effected the "September Crisis" intervened and latter delay was caused because it was necessary to adopt open tendering. | |

It is gratifying to know, however, that these difficulties are all surmounted and that in the early part of 1939 the Council have commenced to build 152 houses which will bring the total number of Council Houses to 364.

These 152 houses are being built in the following Parishes:-

Brandon	18	Lakenheath	20
Freckenham	12	Mildenhall	60
Gazeley	10	Moulton	12
Icklingham	6	Tuddenham	6
Kentford	6	Worlington	2

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Cowkeepers registered	142
" " Cowsheds and Dairies	146
" " Registered Retailers	62
" " Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	81
" " Notices issued in respect of unclean production of Milk	1
" " Contraventions found	31
" " Contraventions remedied	31
" " Premises found to require cleansing	22
" " Premises found to require structural alterations	9
" " Bacteriological samples taken	4

Legal Proceedings.

It was necessary to take legal proceedings in order to ensure a satisfactory water supply to a cowshed, a conviction being obtained.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses	10
" " Licensed " "	5
" " Newly-Licensed " "	Nil
" " Visits to Butchers' Premises	358

The following is the meat destroyed without resort to seizure:-

TUBERCULOSIS. OTHER DISEASES.

Bovines.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Bovines.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1 complete carcass and organs	Nil	22 heads & tongues (injured) 16 mesent. 2 livers eries. 3 heads and 1 lungs	1 foreqtr	1 complete carcass 2 pairs	1 complete carcass 3 heads & tongues 2 plucks. 2 spleens 2 mesen- teries.
1 liver		8 spleens 2 plucks.			
1 mesentery					
1 pair lungs					

Other Foods.

19 lb. tinned English Gammon (decomposed)
1 hen pheasant.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed		Not known			
Number inspected (All diseases except Tuberculosis.)	116	50	9	354	373
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	-	-	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	-	-	2	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	3.7	-	-	0.8	2.1
<u>(Tuberculosis only.)</u>					
Whole carcasses	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	38
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.4	-	-	-	10.2

(c) ADULTERATION, ETC.

The County Council's Inspector of Food and Drugs carries out the duties in connection with the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Acts.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

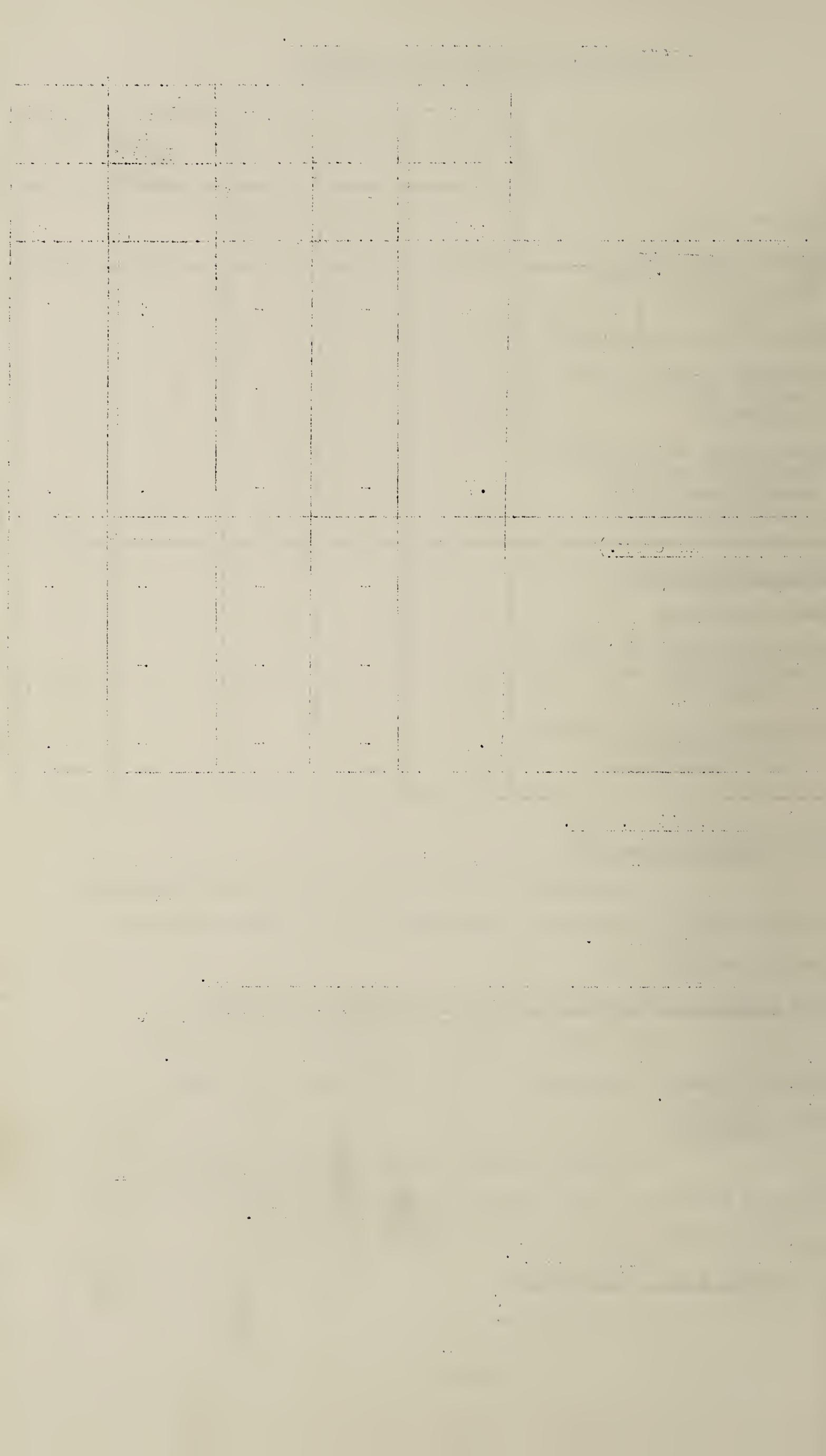
We did not require the services of the East Suffolk County Laboratory for this work during the year.

(e) NUTRITION.

The County Council have extended their Milk in Schools Scheme so that several necessitous children in our Area benefit by the provision of free milk in schools.

(f) SHELL FISH (MOLLUSCAN).

No beds exist.



SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows that no serious outbreak of Infectious Disease occurred during the year.

ALL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1938.

<u>Disease.</u>	Total cases notified.	-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	9	-	---	-	-	2	5	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Pneumonia.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	4
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Undulant Fever.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Erysipelas.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
	17	-	-	-	-	2	5	2	-	2	1	4	1	3	5

The principle non-notifiable infectious diseases in the School population during the year were:-
 Mumps 245 cases. Chickenpox 91 cases and Measles 14 cases.
 The monthly occurrence is indicated by the following figures:-

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	Jly.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Mumps	15	15	31	24	33	23	23	25	30	25	1
Chickenpox	-	77	-	3	8	-	-	1	-	2	-
Measles	1	2	-	2	2	-	7	-	-	-	-

Worlington School was closed for 10 days during the year owing to Chickenpox.

The necessary co-operation with the County School Medical Service was maintained, and disinfection of School premises carried out when required.

T U B E R C U L O S I S

New cases and mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
5 - 15	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 - 35	-	1	-	3	-	2	-	-
35 - 45	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals.	-	4	1	3	1	4	-	-

The cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1938 and the same at the end of 1938 and 1936 were as follows:-

	PULMONARY.		NON PULMONARY.		TOTAL.		T O T A L
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
31. 12. 38.	16	8	13	7	29	15	44
31. 12. 37.	20	11	13	7	33	18	51
31. 12. 36.	18	11	15	12	33	23	56

